

January 8, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft  
U.S. Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Ave. NW  
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Mr. Ashcroft,

I am writing you to explain my defense of the Microsoft settlement. It is more than adequate, and I wish to be on record as believing such. Years of litigation and millions of dollars in court-related costs have sufficiently chastised the corporation and the proposed settlement agreement will more than adequately right the supposed wrongs of Mr. Gates and company.

The settlement will force Microsoft to open itself and its systems up to access by its competitors. It establishes, as you know, an oversight committee to assure the company does not forswear its obligations. It will no doubt open up the industry to more marketplace competition to the benefit of consumers and the entire industry. Why then would anybody not support it?

With a declining economy, thousands of industry jobs lost and more in jeopardy, the country does not need to further constrain a vital corporation like Microsoft. I fully support the settlement. Thank you for your time and hard work on this issue.

Sincerely,



Bill Schoenherr